IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, lines 17-21, as follows:

Fig. 7 is a block diagram of a conventional POS system. Bar code readers ~~101~~ 10_1 to ~~10n~~ 10_n are placed at various locations in the shop or the department store. These bar code readers ~~101~~ 10_1 to ~~10n~~ 10_n have an arrangement to optically read a bar code attached to an article. The read bar code information is transmitted to the host apparatus 20.

Please amend the paragraph on page 5, lines 19-23, as follows:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a POS system according to an embodiment of the present invention. Bar code readers ~~1001~~ 100_1 to ~~100n~~ 100_n are placed at various locations in a shop. These bar code readers have an arrangement to optically read bar codes attached to articles, and transmit the read information to a host apparatus 200

Please amend the paragraph on page 7, lines 1-14, as follows:

The (3) date setting bar code is a bar code for setting the date of a timer provided in each of the bar code readers ~~1001~~ 100_1 to ~~100n~~ 100_n. The types of the bar code are the following 10 types for incrementing or decrementing the year, month, day, hour and minute:

(a) Year incremented bar code,

(b) Month incremented bar code,

(c) Day incremented bar code,

(d) Hour incremented bar code,

(e) Minute incremented bar code,

(f) Year decremented bar code,

(g) Month decremented bar code,

(h) Day decremented bar code,

(i) Hour decremented bar code, and

(j) Minute decremented bar code.

Please amend the paragraph on page 10, lines 2-7, as follows:

This display 115 is of, for example, such a type as to display alphanumeric letters by seven segments. A communication I/F (interface) 116 controls communication between the reader 1001 and the host apparatus 200 based on a predetermined communication protocol. The bar code readers ~~1002~~ 100_2 to ~~100n~~ 100_n are equal in configuration to the bar code reader ~~1001~~ 100_1.

Please amend the paragraph on page 10, lines 8-11, as follows:

The operation of one embodiment will next be explained with reference to the flowcharts of Figs. 4 to 6. An example in which the bar code reader ~~1001~~ 100_1 shown in Fig. 1 reads a bar code and makes a term expiration check will be mainly explained

Please amend the paragraph on page 10, lines 13-16, as follows:

At step SA1 shown in Fig. 4, the main controller 109 of the bar code reader ~~1001~~ 100_1 determines whether the light receiving section 106, the A/D converter 107, and the demodulator 108 have read the bar code 50. In this example, the determination result is "No", and this determination is repeated

Please amend the paragraph on pages 14-15, starting at line 25, as follows:

At the step SA15, the main controller 109 transmits the bar code information corresponding to the expired bar code 50 (year/month/day bar code) as well as information on the term expiration to the host apparatus 200 through the communication I/F 116. As a result, the host apparatus 200 recognizes that the term of the year/month/day bar code expires. If the determination result at the step SA14 is "No", the main controller 109 makes the determination at the step SA1. Further, if a bar code other than the year/month/day bar code or the year/month bar code is read, the main controller 109 gives a determination result of "Yes" at the step SA1, and then gives a determination result of "No" at the step SA2. At the step SA3, the main controller 109 determines whether the bar code 50 is the year/month/day bar code, and gives a determination result of "No". At the step SA4, the main controller 109 determines whether the bar code 50 is the year/month bar code, and gives a determination result of "No". At the step SA16, the main controller 109 reports that reading is successful. At the step SA17, the main controller 109 transmits the bar code information to the host apparatus.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached drawing(s) include changes to FIGS. 4 and 7. The sheet containing FIG. 4 replaces the original sheet including FIG. 4, and the sheet containing FIG. 7 replaces the original sheet including FIG. 7

In item 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to FIG. 1. In order to overcome this objection, the legend --Prior Art-- is added as suggested by the Examiner.

In item 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to FIG. 4. In order to overcome this objection, the –Yes-- label for the SA3 path is replaced to read as "No" as suggested by the Examiner.

For the convenience of the Examiner, annotated sheets showing the changes made are attached. Approval of these changes to the drawings is respectfully requested.